

## **PROCEEDINGS OF THE BROWN COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES BOARD**

Pursuant to Section 19.84 Wis. Stats, a regular meeting of the **Brown County Human Services Board** was held on Thursday, November 13, 2014 in Board Room A of the Sophie Beaumont Building – 111 North Jefferson Street, Green Bay, WI

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**Present:** Chairman Tom Lund  
Craig Huxford, Bill Clancy, Paula Laundrie, Helen Smits, Susan Hyland, JoAnn Grashberger

**Excused:** Carole Andrews, John Van Dyck

**Also**

**Present:** Jeremy Kral, Executive Director  
Nancy Fennema, Director of Community Programs  
Tim Schmitt, Finance Manager  
Lana Cheslock, Children, Youth & Families Manager  
John Bushmaker, Child Protection Supervisor

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**1. Call Meeting to Order:**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Tom Lund at 5:15 pm.

**2. Approve/Modify Agenda:**

GRASCHBERGER/SMITS moved to approve the agenda.  
The motion was passed unanimously.

**3. Approve Minutes of October 9, 2014 Human Services Board Meeting:**

HYLAND/CLANCY moved to approve the minutes dated October 9, 2014.  
The motion was passed unanimously.

**4. Executive Director's Report**

Executive Director Jeremy Kral presented and handed a written report to the board (attached).

Citizen Board Member Huxford entered at 5:21 p.m.

LAUNDRIE /HYLAND moved to receive and place on file.  
Motion was carried unanimously.

**5. Post Reunification Support Grant.**

Child Protection Supervisor John Bushmaker gave an overview of the Post Reunification Support Grant. This is a state grant stemming from children returned home from an out of home care placement. Bushmaker stated that while the majority children reunify safely and effectively, 20% of those children re-enter out of home care. This state grant's purpose is to look at lowering that percentage.

As of this time, we have 12 kids enrolled. There is a specific set of criteria that needs to be met for eligibility. This criterion includes the child's needs, what kind of household they come from and the length of out of home care. The funds are used to support the family when the child returns and also can be used for staff training. This grant is a five year program and we are looking to have 50 children enrolled in 2015.

Bushmaker stated that we are one of the highest performing counties using this grant as we have been very creative with how we utilize the funds.

Q: Citizen Board Member Huxford asked if the grant is per capita or a set dollar amount.

A: Bushmaker stated the state gives us a lump sum. We are responsible to bill our worker's hours and report the information on what we do with the funding.

Q: Chairman Lund asked if doing this is less expensive for the state than running out of home care facilities.

A: Bushmaker stated it is extremely cost effective. We focus on the children who specifically get this grant funding as we don't want them to reach the out of home care level.

Q: County Board Member Clancy asked if these children go back to foster parents or the biological parents when they complete the program.

A: Bushmaker stated they will go back to their biological parent or guardian.

Q: Citizen Board Member Hyland asked how we know if the environment for the child is safe when they return.

A: Bushmaker stated our workers go through safety analysis and planning and meet with the children at least twice a month. They make sure that specific behavioral changes are occurring on behalf of the parents. Cheslock added that the state does a very good job of outlining safety criteria and there is a guidebook that determines legally if an environment is safe. Bushmaker stated that we also have the court system involved when a child is placed out of the home so we do have additional input into the decision making.

Q: Citizen Board Member Hyland asked if the parents embrace the reunification.

A: Bushmaker stated that parents love their children and the majority of them embrace the chance to get their children back. Part of the safety planning is that parents will work with providers.

GRASCHBERGER/LAUNDRIE moved to receive and place on file.  
Motion was carried unanimously.

## **6. Financial Report**

Finance Manager Tim Schmitt had submitted a written report with the board packet agenda.

HYLAND/HUXFORD moved to receive and place on file.  
Motion was carried unanimously.

## **7. Statistical Reports:**

Please refer to the packet which includes this information.

## **8. Approval for New Non-Continuous Vendor:**

Please refer to the packet which includes this information.

**9. Request for New Vendor Contract:**

Please refer to the packet which includes this information.

**10. Other Matters:**

Next Meeting: Thursday, December 11, 2014  
5:15 p.m. – Sophie Beaumont Building, Board Room A

**11. Adjourn Business Meeting:**

LAUNDRIE/SMITS moved to adjourn; motion passed unanimously. Chairman Lund adjourned the meeting at 5:34 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kara Navin  
Recording Secretary

*Brown County Human Services*

Executive Director's Report to the Human Services Board

November 13, 2014

Good Evening Board Members:

On November 12, 2014 the Joint Committee on Finance met and unanimously approved expansion of managed long-term care into our region of the state. This was the final legislative approval that was needed, and now the Human Services Department and Aging and Disability Resource Center can work in earnest to transition from the current long-term care system with the CIP and COP Medicaid waivers to the new long-term care system serving people through the Family Care waiver and through IRIS (I Respect I Self-Direct).

A date or schedule for Brown County's transition is not currently scheduled. This department will be collaborating with Wisconsin Department of Health Services, the Aging and Disability Resource Center, and the two selected managed care organizations to revisit and finalize plans with regard to timing of the transition and relevant dates.

I have had the opportunity recently to work with Secretary Eloise Anderson and human services directors from around the state on several issues recently. Specifically, two of the issues that statewide child welfare leadership have identified are: the recruitment and retention of workers for child protective services work (direct service as well as supervising the direct service work) and defining the future direction of child protection in the state-defining and focusing on the outcomes and roles that are most important to those we serve. Several action steps were developed that will be implemented by statewide teams to enhance practices in each of these areas.

Comprehensive Community Services (CCS) expansion continues to be an area we are working on heavily. Changes were made to the billing codes and underlying systems that have been challenging to adapt to utilizing the AS400-based billing and authorization system. Situations like this validate the decision that the department and county board agreed upon to replace the department's aging infrastructure for these purposes. The department continues to prepare for implementation of the successor to the AS400 system, which will be expansion of the MyAvatar program already implemented in the behavioral health areas. This system implementation is expected to occur in 2015; the go-live date is dependent on the time needed to prepare for the transition.

Respectfully Submitted By:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jeremy Kral', is written over the printed name and title.

Jeremy Kral  
Executive Director